




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

JUL 19 2007

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Organization of the Regional Incident Coordination Team, Designation of the Regional Incident Coordinator, ESF-10 Chair, and Pre-designation of Regional On-Scene Coordinators

FROM: J. I. Palmer, Jr.
Regional Administrator 

TO: Division Directors

In November 2002, I announced changes in the membership and operating procedures for the Regional Incident Coordination Team (RICT) to make it more compatible with the Agency's role in homeland security (see attached memorandum). Since that time, national and regional changes have required a re-examination of our RICT organization. Specifically, the issuance of the final National Response Plan (NRP); the establishment of new Agency positions, such as the Regional Incident Coordinator (RIC); the reorganization of the Region 4 Waste Management Division; and the establishment of Homeland Security among the Administrator's priorities, necessitate the redesignation and appointment of the RIC, ESF-10 Chair, Regional On-Scene Coordinators (OSC) and a change in the membership and leadership of the RICT.

Therefore, I am making the following appointments:

(1) The Chief of the Emergency Response and Removal Branch in the Superfund Division will serve as the RIC and the ESF-10 Chair.

The RIC shall:

- Provide strategic management objectives and oversight to the Incident Management Team (IMT) or Area Command (AC);
- Act as the primary point of contact to the IMT or AC;
- Provide clarification of regional policy issues to the IMT or AC; and
- Ensure effective and timely communication between field activities and the RICT.

The ESF-10 Chair shall serve as EPA's point of contact with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for mission assignments and planning.

(2) In the past, Region 4 has pre-designated OSCs in the Regional Area Contingency Plan (RACP). Given the pace of change and rapid development of various regional and national response plans, listing OSCs in the RACP is no longer sufficient. Therefore, all Region 4 OSCs hired under OSCs position descriptions are designated OSCs for purposes of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan and relevant statutes.

(3) Given the of level importance homeland security and emergency response preparedness has within EPA, the primary membership of the RICT shall consist of each Division Director (a Deputy Division Director shall be appointed to serve as an alternate), the Chief of Staff, the Director of the Office of Public Affairs, the RIC, the Regional Homeland Security Coordinator and the Regional COOP Coordinator.

(4) The Superfund Division Director shall serve as the RICT Chair, who is responsible for Regional Homeland Security and Emergency Response Coordination. These responsibilities may be elevated to the Regional Administrator or Deputy Regional Administrator depending on the magnitude or severity of the event.

These changes are effective immediately and will be reflected in amended RICT Operating Procedures.

Attachment

cc: RICT membership